

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:384
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2001
NANDA DEVI BIOSPHERE RESERVE
MINATISEN

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the buffer zone of the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve, described as 'large ecological areas for future and present use and a preserve of genetic diversity' has become a hunting ground for poachers;
- (b) whether this biosphere is endangered due to high altitude medicinal herbs being smuggled out with impunity;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):

- (a) Cases of illegal hunting in the buffer zone of Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve have been detected and punitive action has been taken against the poachers.
- (b) and (c) No, Sir. However, sporadic collection of medicinal herbs by the local people cannot be ruled out.
- (c) The Central Government renders financial assistance to the State for training and equipping the staff with modern equipment to enable them to function effectively. During the current financial year an amount of Rs.37.33 lakhs has been released to the State Government for effective management of the biosphere reserve.